



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Names Maricopa County Superior Court Appointment

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer has appointed Patricia Starr to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

“Ms. Starr brings more than 20 years of legal experience, including a strong background in behavioral health, criminal and capital cases,” said Governor Brewer. “I am confident she will serve the court and county with impartiality and integrity.”

Ms. Starr has been a Maricopa County Superior Court commissioner since 2011. Prior to her appointment as commissioner, Ms. Starr served as Capital Staff Attorney for the Arizona Death Penalty Judicial Assistance Project (2008-11); Assistant Attorney General for the Arizona Attorney General’s Office (2005-08; 2002-03); Deputy County Attorney for the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office (2003-05; 1993-2002); and Law Clerk to the Honorable Jefferson Lankford with the Arizona Court of Appeals (1992-93). Accordingly, her previous experience includes assisting trial judges with death penalty cases; handling insurance fraud, habeas matters, juvenile delinquency and civil commitment hearings; and representing the state in capital, criminal, juvenile and sexually violent persons appeals. Ms. Starr also has prosecuted two capital jury trials.

Additionally, Ms. Starr has lectured or presented at numerous trainings and seminars on the topics of capital cases, jury instruction, courtroom testimony, search and seizure and writing. She was nominated for the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council’s David E. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award (2006-07) and earned the Arizona Attorney General’s Office of Victims Services Award (2007). During her time with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, she also was named Appeals and Research Division Attorney of the Year (2004) and Pretrial Division Attorney of the Year (2000).

Ms. Starr is active in her field and her community, currently serving on the Publications and Editorial Advisory Board of the Judicial College of Arizona and the State Bar Committee on Legal Services. She has been a member of the National Association of Court Management (2010-11); Blue Ribbon Taskforce (2011); Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review (2008-11); Arizona Attorney Magazine’s Editorial Board (2000-09); and State Bar Conflict Case Committee (2002-03). Ms. Starr also has volunteered at National Adoption Day, Arizona Animal Welfare League, Veterans’ Stand Down, ASU Judicial Mentor Program and Xavier’s Mock Trial Invitational. Ms. Starr received her Bachelor of Science (1987) and Juris Doctorate (1992) from the University of Arizona.

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